

Blepharoplasty (Upper and Lower lid) including Brow Lift

NHS Devon

Commissioning policy

Blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) with and without brow lift will only be routinely commissioned when the following criteria are met:

- Impairment of visual fields in the relaxed, non-compensated state: Evidence will be required that eyelids impinge on visual fields, reducing field to 120° laterally and 40° vertically (20 above and 20 below).

OR

- Correction of ectropion (eyelid margin turns outwards) or entropion (eyelid margin turns inwards towards the eye) with ocular irritation and causing functional implications.

Blepharoplasty and brow lift for cosmetic purposes will not be routinely commissioned.

Rationale for the decision

Blepharoplasty is surgery to remove excess skin or fat from the eyelids, the aim of which is to improve hooded or drooping eyelids or eye bags. Many people acquire excess skin in the upper eyelids as part of the process of ageing and this may be considered normal. The skin loses its elasticity and our muscles slacken with age. However if this starts to interfere with vision then this can warrant treatment.

At the same time there is slackening of the muscle beneath the skin allowing the fat, which cushions the eyes in their sockets, to protrude forward to give the appearance of bagginess. Excessive skin in the lower lid may cause 'eye bags' but does not affect function of the eyelid or vision and therefore does not need correction.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the ICB upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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